

A

## REVIEW

OF THE

## STATE

OF THE

## BRITISH NATION.

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 Tuesday, June 21. 1709.
 

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**I** Now come to the long expected, and I confess, often promis'd Subject of Trade, and as Affairs will permit, I shall carry it on; but I must prepare my Readers to expect Digressions and Interruptions from the publick Transactions, whether from the War abroad, or the Struggles of Parties at home, as they come in my Way—Which, considering the Circumstances of Things, cannot be avoided—However, unless very extraordinary Business calls me off, I purpose, that at least one Part of this Paper throughout this Volume, shall be employ'd in travelling over the vast Mazes and Wildernesses of Commerce in the World: And tho' some, to whom the Subject will be foreign and perhaps unintelligible, may lose me, and be lost to me in the Pursuit of this Subject—And I expect to see Abundance of you, even you that have call'd loudest and longest for the Argument, tired with the Length of it, and crying out for Novelty; but if, he does lose you, if he does not lose himself, he is contented—

As to the REVIEW, Gentlemen, it is grown old and grive, and has left off making you laugh a great while; not because he thinks he cannot tickle your Imagination as formerly; but because he thinks 'tis more for your Service to make you wise, than merry.

And therefore he rather applies to serve than divert you—He knows you will call him dull Fellow, and throw by the Paper with some Contempt—But he tells you, if you throw the Review down, some as wise as you will take it up—And when he has talk'd to wise Men, as long as he has already talk'd to F—s, he'll come back to you again.

## Of TRADE in General.

**A**ND here, Gentlemen, I do not forget, that four Years ago, in the second Volume of this Work, I began under this very Head—However, what I said then I know not, having not that Volume at hand; but I'll venture so far upon my own Thoughts, and their being, then as well as now, regular and just to the Subject, that I perswade my self, I shall not repeat, and yet say now what is true, and to the Purpose.

I shall be very brief in my laying down the Elements or Generals of this new System.

When Men, multiply'd upon the Earth, and spreading themselves over the whole Creation, began to apply themselves to Method and Art, for the Conveniencies as well as Necessaries of Life—It necessarily follow'd,

1. That since every Man could not compass the Art, or perform the Labour of providing every needful Thing for himself or Family—That therefore some other Person should assist him.

This caus'd what we call EMPLOYMENT or *Labour* one for another.

2. That whereas he that apply'd himself to Art could not be diverted by other Labours, he that labour'd could not apply himself to Art, but that the Variety of Things wanting, towards Necessity and Convenience of Life, required Variety of Application; so it behov'd Men out of their respective Applications and Employments to supply one another, and be supply'd from one another, with such Things as their Occasion requir'd.

This was the Original of what we call TRADE or *Dealing* with one another.

3. At first this was doubtless carry'd on by Way of Barter, or exchanging one thing for another; and he that had not wherewith to yield the Equivalent, or something to

deliver for the something he desir'd, had his Labour to give—And work'd at such an Employ as he was capable of, to give the Satisfaction, Reason requir'd.

This was the Original of Contracts for Service and HIRE of *Servants*.

4. But as People increas'd, and these circumstantial Occasions became numerous, Men found it necessary to form some *Medium*, which being of an *Intrinsic* Value in its *Species*, should be receiv'd as an Equivalent in all Demands from one to another.

And this we call MONEY.

5. As the Wants of one Man from another were various, so as Men spread farther, separated into Kingdoms and Nations, and settled in differing Countries and Climates—They began to be sensible, that one Part of the World produc'd what another Part wanted; that some Nations apply'd to such and such Manufactures, as others did not—And the Wisdom of Providence having so dispos'd the World, as well as the Creatures in it, that almost every Part stands in Need of every Part, and the Nations as well as the People are helpful to one another; The same Necessity and Convenience, which caus'd Men first to serve, assist, and exchange with one another, caus'd Nations to do the like.

And this we call FOREIGN Trade.

I could enlarge upon these, as Generals; but I refer it to their proper Place, and proceed to a second Head, which I call

### THE SUBJECT OF TRADE.

This I shall also handle with the utmost Brevity; For really the Reader will find, this copious Subject does not want Matter to enlarge upon, but rather calls for all the Skill we have to treat of it concisely, and bring it into the the smallest Compass we can, that it may not bewilder

wilder and confound the Reader by Digressions and Enlargements.

The Subject of Trade, I take to be the *Persons* and *Things* necessary to the Management of Commerce in general, and these I call,

I. People.

II. The Necessaries of Life, including Subsistence and Defence.

III. The Pleasures and Conveniences of Life, commonly included in that ill-natur'd Term *Luxury*.

Before I enter upon the Discourse of these, I shall explain them more particularly, that I may make every Thing clear as I go; my Study being to speak in the Things, the meanest People are employ'd about, so as I may be understood by the meanest Capacity.

**I. People**—By this I understand, the Numbers of the labouring and industrious People, whose Application to Trade and Manufactures are the Wealth and Strength of a Nation. I allow, there are a Sort of Drones in the Hive, who live on the said Labour and Industry of the other—And were intolerable in the Nation, but for two Things; 1. That they help to consume the Produce; and 2. That they pay for it: Otherwise some of our Gentry, by their Course of Life, would almost give Occasion for blasphemous Thoughts of their Maker, as if he had done something in the World to no Purpose at all—Having made a Creature of no Use to himself or any Body else— And I cannot but recommend the Consideration of this Animal to that excellent Anatomist of the Ages Follics, *Isaac Bickerstaff*, Esq; — That when he has done with his PRETTY FELLOW—*He is upon*, he will tell us, what that Animal call'd an IDLE FELLOW is—He that thinks none, acts none, and knows none, who like *Solomon's Fool* hates Instruction, and has no Delight in Understanding; that eats only to live, and lives for nothing but to die, and that to happen some time or other, he neither concerns himself how nor when; that rises in the Morning, with no other Prospect or Design, but of going to Bed at Night— That has neither Wish or Desire,

Hope or Fear, Envy or Love, Passion or Affection—But to the weighty Affair of DOING NOTHING. These People deserve an abler Pen than Mine to describe them—And I mention them only, because I am oblig'd to note, that these are a Negative upon my Discourse, being none of the People, whose Encrease is the Wealth and Strength, the Glory and Beauty of a Nation.

When therefore I am describing the Thing I call PEOPLE, as the great Subject of Trade, I mean, such as ought to be number'd among the People, not the Passive, good for nothing—Who walk starving through the Thorough-Fair of Life, and have no Share in the Active Part of Life, and leave no Notice to Posterity that ever they have been here; but the People, who labour, or employ those that labour, trade, or assist those that trade, enjoy, or protect those that enjoy this Life, like Men, like Subjects, like Benefactors to their Country, and like Christians, and assist Futurity by laying up Funds of Wealth and Improvements for Posterity, and a Posterity instructed to manage them.

These are the Subjects of universal Commerce—And this Way every Class of Mankind, the Incurrigible above-mention'd excepted, is useful in their proper Sphere, to the general Advantage of the whole—And thus People are indeed the Essential of Commerce, and the more People, the more Trade; the more Trade, the more Money; the more Money, the more Strength; and the more Strength, the greater a Nation. Thus all Temporal Felicities, I mean National, spring from the Numbers of People; of which at large when I come to Particulars.

Only here I must note by the way two Things;

1. Our Neighbours in *Scotland* may have Room to examine, whether their People going abroad is not the real, and indeed the only Foundation of their Poverty?—And if any future Assistance can be given *Scotland*, but to encourage her People to stay at home, whether it is not all *Scotland* wants, to make her as great, as rich & fruitful, and as powerful as any of her Neighbour?

2. We

2. We may answer the great present Question now pretty much upon our Hands, what shall we do with a Matter of 10000 poor Refugee *Germans* come over hither from the *Palatinate*, and which we find our common People begin already to quarrel at: Of both these I shall speak to in my next.

The other Subjects of Trade are two.

II. *Necessaries of Life*— These I call such as tend to (1.) The Subsistence of Life; or (2.) Defence of Living.

1. The Subsistence of Life implies Food— Explain'd in the Growth or Produce of Land, or more explicitly Corn, and Fruits of the Earth, Cattle, Fish, and Fowl.

2. The Necessaries of Defence consist of (1.) Houses; (2.) Cloths, &c. and their Appendices, as a Defence of Life against the Inclemencies of the Air; and (3.) Warlike Necessaries, as the Defence of Life from Rapine and Violence— And all these have their Share in forming the great Article of Commerce, which I am now upon.

III. *The Pleasures and Conveniences of Life*— These include a vast Variety of the luxuriant Demands of Life, as of Household-Stuff, Ornaments, whether of Dress or Furniture—Wines, Spices, and all Sorts of Dainties for the Palate, or Deckings for the Carcase, into which may be brought your Coaches, Horses, Chairs, and a vast endless Catalogue in my Lady's dressing Room, from the Velvet Slippers to the Patch-Box; all which are become so necessary in our Trade, that speaking in the Language of Trade, our Vices are become our Vertues, and our Extravagancies as necessary as our Essentials; of all which in their proper Place.

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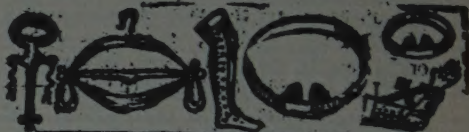
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\* \* Those for *April* and *May* will be publish'd with all Speed.



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N. B. His Mother, the Widow of the late Mr. Christopher Bartlett, lives at the Place above mention'd, and is very skilful in the Business of her own Sex.